



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : A61K 31/535, 31/445	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/24439 (43) International Publication Date: 11 June 1998 (11.06.98)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP97/06683 (22) International Filing Date: 25 November 1997 (25.11.97) (30) Priority Data: 9625051.9 2 December 1996 (02.12.96) GB 9701459.1 24 January 1997 (24.01.97) GB 9713715.2 27 June 1997 (27.06.97) GB 9716471.9 4 August 1997 (04.08.97) GB 9721220.3 7 October 1997 (07.10.97) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): MERCK SHARP & DOHME LIMITED [GB/GB]; Hertford Road, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire EN11 9BU (GB).		Stephen [GB/GB]; Terlings Park, Eastwick Road, Harlow, Essex CM20 2QR (GB). KULAGOWSKI, Janusz, Jozef [GB/GB]; Terlings Park, Eastwick Road, Harlow, Essex CM20 2QR (GB). RUPNIAK, Nadia, Melanie [GB/GB]; Terlings Park, Eastwick Road, Harlow, Essex CM20 2QR (GB). SEWARD, Eileen, Mary [IE/GB]; Terlings Park, Eastwick Road, Harlow, Essex CM20 2QR (GB). SWAIN, Christopher, John [GB/GB]; Terlings Park, Eastwick Road, Harlow, Essex CM20 2QR (GB). WILLIAMS, Brian, John [GB/GB]; Terlings Park, Eastwick Road, Harlow, Essex CM20 2QR (GB). (74) Agent: HISCOCK, Ian; Merck & Co., Inc., European Patent Dept., Terlings Park, Eastwick Road, Harlow, Essex CM20 2QR (GB).
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(54) Title: USE OF NK-1 RECEPTOR ANTAGONISTS FOR TREATING SEVERE ANXIETY DISORDERS		
(57) Abstract		
<p>The present invention provides the use of an orally active, long acting, CNS-penetrant NK-1 receptor antagonist in a medicament adapted for oral administration for the treatment or prevention of severe anxiety disorders without concomitant therapy with other anti-anxiety agents, methods of treatment using such an NK-1 receptor antagonist and pharmaceutical compositions comprising it.</p>		

A0000005/1-01-MG

10/089,819

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USE OF NK-1 RECEPTOR ANTAGONISTS FOR TREATING
SEVERE ANXIETY DISORDERS

5 This invention relates to the treatment or prevention of certain anxiety disorders by the administration of a specific class of NK-1 receptor antagonists.

 Anxiety is an emotional condition characterised by feelings such as apprehension and fear accompanied by physical symptoms such as tachycardia, increased respiration, sweating and tremor. It is a normal
10 emotion but when it is severe and disabling it becomes pathological.

 Anxiety disorders are generally treated using benzodiazepine sedative-anxiolytic agents. Potent benzodiazepines should not be prescribed for more than 3 or 4 weeks, however, due to the risks associated with drug dependency. Tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs) such as
15 amitriptyline which have both anxiolytic and antidepressant actions may also be used. 5-HT_{1A} receptor agonists and antagonists may also have useful anxiolytic and other psychotropic activity (see R. J. Baldessarini in *Goodman & Gilman's The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics*, 9th Edition, Chapter 18, McGraw-Hill, 1996 for a review). Selective serotonin
20 reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) are also widely prescribed for the treatment of anxiety.

 Apart from the risks of drug dependency, benzodiazepines are also associated with a number of side-effects including increased hostility and irritability, vivid or disturbing dreams, weight gain, skin rash, nausea,
25 headache, impairment of sexual function, vertigo, and lightheadedness. Difficulties may also arise with the use of tricyclic antidepressants, in particular, due to their anticholinergic side-effects which are particularly troublesome in patients with prostatic enlargement or glaucoma. Other side-effects of tricyclic antidepressants include dry mouth, tachycardia,
30 difficulty in visual accommodation, constipation, urinary retention, sexual dysfunction, cognitive impairment, postural hypotension, and weight gain.

SSRIs are not without their own side-effects, including nausea, diarrhoea, dry mouth, reduced appetite, dyspepsia, vomiting, headache, nervousness, insomnia, anxiety, tremour, dizziness, fatigue, decreased libido, pharyngitis, dyspnoea, skin rash and sexual dysfunction.

5 Neurokinin 1 (NK-1; substance P) receptor antagonists are being developed for the treatment of a number of physiological disorders associated with an excess or imbalance of tachykinins, and in particular substance P. Examples of conditions in which substance P has been
10 depression and psychosis (see, for instance, International (PCT) patent specification Nos. WO 95/16679, WO 95/18124 and WO 95/23798).

 On the other hand, European Patent Specification No. 0 286 928 describes inhibitors of the enzyme prolyl-endoropeptidase, which enzyme degrades neuropeptides such as substance P, the enzyme inhibitors having
15 an antipsychotic, anxiolytic and antidepressant action. Thus, degrading substance P or reducing the action of substance P in some other way (e.g. antagonism at its preferred NK-1 receptor) might be expected to be detrimental to the treatment of anxiety.

 More recently, International (PCT) patent specification No. WO
20 96/24353 (published 15th August 1996) suggests that a more efficacious and safe treatment of psychiatric disorders would be achieved using a combination of a tachykinin antagonist and a serotonin agonist or selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI). However, such a regimen would not be free of side-effects due to the serotonin agonist or SSRI.

25 NK-1 receptor antagonists are described in published European Patent Specification Nos. 0 360 390, 0 394 989, 0 429 366, 0 443 132, 0 482 539, 0 512 901, 0 512 902, 0 514 273, 0 514 275, 0 517 589, 0 520 555, 0 522 808, 0 528 495, 0 532 456, 0 533 280, 0 536 817, 0 545 478, 0 577 394, 0 590 152, 0 599 538, 0 610 793, 0 634 402,
30 0 686 629, 0 693 489, 0 694 535, 0 699 655, 0 699 674, 0 707 006, 0 708 101, 0 714 891, 0 723 959, 0 733 632 and 0 776 893; and in

International Patent Specification Nos. 90/05525, 90/05729, 91/09844, 91/18899, 92/01688, 92/06079, 92/12151, 92/15585, 92/17449, 92/20661, 92/20676, 92/21677, 93/00330, 93/00331, 93/01159, 93/01165, 93/01169, 93/01170, 93/06099, 93/09116, 93/10073, 93/14113, 93/18023, 93/19064, 5 93/21155, 93/21181, 93/23380, 93/24465, 94/01402, 94/02461, 94/03429, 94/03445, 94/04494, 94/04496, 94/05625, 94/07843, 94/10165, 94/10167, 94/10168, 94/10170, 94/11368, 94/13639, 94/13663, 94/14767, 94/15903, 94/19320, 94/19323, 94/20500, 94/26735, 94/26740, 94/29309, 95/02595, 95/04040, 95/04042, 95/06645, 95/07886, 95/07908, 95/08549, 95/11880, 10 95/14017, 95/15311, 95/16679, 95/17382, 95/18124, 95/18129, 95/19344, 95/20575, 95/21819, 96/22525, 95/23798, 95/26338, 95/28418, 95/30674, 95/30687, 96/05193, 96/05203, 96/06094, 96/07649, 96/10562, 96/16939, 96/18643, 96/20197, 96/21661, 96/29304, 96/29317, 96/29326, 96/29328, 96/31214, 96/32385, 96/37489, 97/01553, 97/01554, 97/03066, 97/08144, 15 97/14671, 97/17362, 97/18206, 97/19084, 97/19942 and 97/21702; and in British Patent Specification Nos. 2 266 529, 2 268 931, 2 269 170, 2 269 590, 2 271 774, 2 292 144, 2 293 168, 2 293 169, and 2 302 689.

In view of the short-comings of existing anti-anxiety therapy, there is a need for new, safe and effective treatment for severe anxiety disorders.

20 The present invention provides the use of a CNS penetrant NK-1 receptor antagonist in an oral, once-a-day medicament for the treatment of severe anxiety disorder. The compounds of this class advantageously exhibit a rapid onset of action and a reduced side-effect profile when compared against conventional anxiolytic agents.

25 In particular, the present invention provides a means for the identification of NK-1 receptor antagonists which would be effective in an oral once-a-day medicament for the treatment of severe anxiety disorders. The aforementioned patent specifications which describe NK-1 receptor antagonists provide no reliable method for the identification of such 30 compounds.

The exceptional pharmacology of the class of NK-1 receptor antagonists of use in the present invention enables the treatment of severe anxiety disorders, without the need for concomitant therapy using benzodiazepines or tricyclic antidepressants or, in particular, without the
5 need for concomitant use of a serotonin agonist or antagonist or an SSRI.

Furthermore, the exceptional pharmacology of the class of NK-1 receptor antagonists of use in the present invention results in a rapid onset of action.

The present invention accordingly provides the use of an orally
10 active, long acting, CNS-penetrant NK-1 receptor antagonist (as hereinafter defined) for the manufacture of a medicament adapted for oral administration for the treatment or prevention of severe anxiety disorders without concomitant therapy with other anti-anxiety agents.

The present invention also provides a method for the treatment or
15 prevention of severe anxiety disorders without concomitant therapy with other anti-anxiety agents, which method comprises the oral administration to a patient in need of such treatment of an effective amount of an orally active, long acting, CNS-penetrant NK-1 receptor antagonist (as hereinafter defined).

20 In a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided an oral pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of severe anxiety disorders which comprises essentially an orally active, long acting, CNS-penetrant NK-1 receptor antagonist (as hereinafter defined), together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

25 There exists a patient population in whom severe anxiety disorders are inadequately treated with benzodiazepines. Furthermore, some patients may be adversely affected by the side-effects of benzodiazepines.

The present invention accordingly provides the use of an orally active, long acting, CNS-penetrant NK-1 receptor antagonist for the
30 manufacture of a medicament adapted for oral administration for the treatment or prevention of severe anxiety disorders, without concomitant

therapy with other anti-anxiety agents, in a patient who is non-responsive to benzodiazepines or for whom benzodiazepines are contraindicated.

The present invention also provides a method for the treatment or prevention of severe anxiety disorders, without concomitant therapy with other anti-anxiety agents, in a patient who is non-responsive to benzodiazepines or for whom benzodiazepines are contraindicated, which method comprises oral administration to the patient in need of such treatment of an effective amount of an orally active, long acting, CNS-penetrant NK-1 receptor antagonist.

Furthermore, there exists a patient population in whom severe anxiety disorders are inadequately treated with tricyclic antidepressants. Furthermore, some patients may be adversely affected by the side-effects of tricyclic antidepressants.

The present invention accordingly provides the use of an orally active, long acting, CNS-penetrant NK-1 receptor antagonist for the manufacture of a medicament adapted for oral administration for the treatment or prevention of severe anxiety disorders, without concomitant therapy with other anti-anxiety agents, in a patient who is non-responsive to tricyclic antidepressants or for whom tricyclic antidepressants are contraindicated.

The present invention also provides a method for the treatment or prevention of severe anxiety disorders, without concomitant therapy with other anti-anxiety agents, in a patient who is non-responsive to tricyclic antidepressants or for whom tricyclic antidepressants are contraindicated, which method comprises oral administration to the patient in need of such treatment of an effective amount of an orally active, long acting, CNS-penetrant NK-1 receptor antagonist.

Furthermore, there exists a patient population in whom severe anxiety disorders are inadequately treated with SSRIs or serotonin agonists or antagonists. Furthermore, some patients may be adversely affected by the side-effects of SSRIs or serotonin agonists or antagonists.

The present invention accordingly provides the use of an orally active, long acting, CNS-penetrant NK-1 receptor antagonist for the manufacture of a medicament adapted for oral administration for the treatment or prevention of severe anxiety disorders, without concomitant
5 therapy with other anti-anxiety agents, in a patient who is non-responsive to SSRIs or serotonin agonists or antagonists or for whom SSRIs or serotonin agonists or antagonists are contraindicated.

The present invention also provides a method for the treatment or prevention of severe anxiety disorders, without concomitant therapy with
10 other anti-anxiety agents, in the patient who is non-responsive to SSRIs or serotonin agonists or antagonists or for whom SSRIs or serotonin agonists or antagonists are contraindicated, which method comprises oral administration to the patient in need of such treatment of an effective amount of an orally active, long acting, CNS-penetrant NK-1 receptor
15 antagonist.

As used herein, the term "non-responsive" in relation to severe anxiety disorders means patients who have not had a reasonable clinical response (e.g. a 50% reduction in Hamilton Anxiety Scale (HAM-A) from a patient's baseline score after treatment with one or more clinical courses of
20 conventional anxiolytics).

As used herein, the term "severe anxiety disorders" includes panic disorder with or without agoraphobia, agoraphobia without history of panic disorder, specific phobias, social phobias and obsessive-compulsive disorder.

25 "Panic disorder" is defined as the presence of recurrent panic attacks followed by at least one month of persistent concern about having another panic attack. A "panic attack" is a discrete period in which there is a sudden onset of intense apprehension, fearfulness or terror. During a panic attack, the individual may experience a variety of symptoms
30 including palpitations, sweating, trembling, shortness of breath, chest

pain, nausea and dizziness. Panic disorder may occur with or without agoraphobia.

“Phobias” includes agoraphobia, specific phobias and social phobias.

5 “Agoraphobia” is characterised by an anxiety about being in places or situations from which escape might be difficult or embarrassing or in which help may not be available in the event of a panic attack.

Agoraphobia may occur without history of a panic attack. A “specific phobia” is characterised by clinically significant anxiety provoked by exposure to a specific feared object or situation. Specific phobias include
10 the following subtypes: animal type, cued by animals or insects; natural environment type, cued by objects in the natural environment, for example storms, heights or water; blood-injection-injury type, cued by the sight of blood or an injury or by seeing or receiving an injection or other invasive medical procedure; situational type, cued by a specific situation such as
15 public transportation, tunnels, bridges, elevators, flying, driving or enclosed spaces; and other type where fear is cued by other stimuli. Specific phobias may also be referred to as simple phobias. A “social phobia” is characterised by clinically significant anxiety provoked by exposure to certain types of social or performance circumstances. Social
20 phobia may also be referred to as social anxiety disorder.

“Obsessive-compulsive disorder is characterised by recurrent obsessions or compulsions that are severe enough to be time consuming (i.e. they take at least one hour a day) or cause marked distress or significant impairment. At some point during the course of the disorder,
25 the patient should recognise that the obsessions or compulsions are excessive or unreasonable.

Other anxiety disorders encompassed within the term “severe anxiety disorders” include anxiety disorders induced by alcohol, amphetamines, caffeine, cannabis, cocaine, hallucinogens, inhalants,
30 phencyclidine, sedatives, hypnotics, anxiolytics and other substances, and adjustment disorders with anxiety.

As used herein, the term "treatment" refers both to the treatment and to the prevention or prophylactic therapy of the aforementioned conditions.

Preferred NK-1 receptor antagonists for use in the present invention are selected from the classes of compounds described in European Patent Specification No. 0 577 394, and International Patent Specification Nos. 95/08549, 95/18124, 95/23798 and 96/05181, and International Patent Application No. PCT/GB97/01630. The preparation of such compounds is fully described in the aforementioned publications.

Particularly preferred NK-1 receptor antagonists of use in the present invention include:

- 2-(S)-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzyloxy)-3(S)-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-(3-(5-oxo-1H,4H-1,2,4-triazolo)methyl)morpholine;
- 2-(R)-(1-(R)-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethoxy)-4-(3-(5-oxo-1H,4H-1,2,4-triazolo)methyl)-3-(S)-phenyl-morpholine;
- 2-(S)-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzyloxy)-4-(3-(5-oxo-1H,4H-1,2,4-triazolo)methyl)-3-(S)-phenyl-morpholine;
- 2-(R)-(1-(R)-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethoxy)-3-(S)-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-(3-(5-oxo-1H,4H-1,2,4-triazolo)methyl)morpholine;
- 2-(R)-(1-(R)-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethoxy)-4-(5-(N,N-dimethylamino)methyl-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)methyl-3-(S)-phenylmorpholine;
- 2-(R)-(1-(R)-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethoxy)-4-(5-(N,N-dimethylamino)methyl-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)methyl-3-(S)-(4-fluorophenyl)morpholine;
- 2-(R)-(1-(R)-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethoxy)-3-(S)-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-(3-(4-monophosphoryl-5-oxo-1H-1,2,4-triazolo)methyl)morpholine;
- 2-(R)-(1-(R)-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethoxy)-3-(S)-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-(3-(1-monophosphoryl-5-oxo-1H-1,2,4-triazolo)methyl)morpholine;
- 2-(R)-(1-(R)-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethoxy)-3-(S)-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-(3-(2-monophosphoryl-5-oxo-1H-1,2,4-triazolo)methyl)morpholine;

- 2-(R)-(1-(R)-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethoxy)-3-(S)-(4-fluorophenyl)-
4-(3-(5-oxophosphoryl-1H-1,2,4-triazolo)methyl)morpholine;
2-(S)-(1-(R)-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethoxy)-3-(S)-(4-fluorophenyl)-
4-(3-(1-monophosphoryl-5-oxo-4H-1,2,4-triazolo)methyl)morpholine;
5 2-(R)-(1-(R)-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethoxy)-4-(4-N,N-
dimethylaminobut-2-yn-yl)-3-(S)-(4-fluorophenyl)morpholine;
(3S,5R,6S)-3-[2-cyclopropoxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-6-phenyl-1-oxa-
7-aza-spiro[4.5]decane;
(3R,5R,6S)-3-[2-cyclopropoxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-6-phenyl-1-oxa-
10 7-aza-spiro[4.5]decane;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Full descriptions of the preparation of the NK-1 receptor antagonists which may be employed in the present invention may be found in the references cited herein.

- 15 Suitable pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the NK-1 receptor antagonists of use in the present invention include acid addition salts which may, for example, be formed by mixing a solution of the compound with a solution of a pharmaceutically acceptable non-toxic acid such as hydrochloric acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid, succinic acid, acetic acid, citric
20 acid, tartaric acid, carbonic acid, phosphoric acid or sulphuric acid. Salts of amine groups may also comprise the quaternary ammonium salts in which the amino nitrogen atom carries an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or aralkyl group. Where the compound carries an acidic group, for example a carboxylic acid group, the present invention also contemplates salts
25 thereof, preferably non-toxic pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, such as the sodium, potassium and calcium salts thereof.

- Preferably the compositions containing an NK-1 receptor antagonist of use according to the present invention are in unit dosage forms such as tablets, pills, capsules, wafers and the like. Additionally, the NK-1
30 receptor antagonists of use according to the present invention may be presented as granules or powders for extemporaneous formulation as

volume defined solutions or suspensions. Alternatively, the NK-1 receptor antagonists of use according to the present invention may be presented in ready-prepared volume defined solutions or suspensions. Preferred forms are tablets and capsules.

5 For preparing solid compositions such as tablets, the principal active ingredient is mixed with a pharmaceutical carrier, e.g. conventional tableting ingredients such as corn starch, lactose, sucrose, sorbitol, talc, stearic acid, magnesium stearate, dicalcium phosphate or gums, and other pharmaceutical diluents, e.g. water, to form a solid preformulation
10 composition containing a homogeneous mixture of a compound of the present invention, or a non-toxic pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof. When referring to these preformulation compositions as homogeneous, it is meant that the active ingredient is dispersed evenly throughout the composition so that the composition may be readily subdivided into
15 equally effective unit dosage forms such as tablets, pills and capsules. This solid preformulation composition is then subdivided into unit dosage forms of the type described above containing from 0.1 to about 500 mg of the active ingredient of the present invention. The tablets or pills of the novel composition can be coated or otherwise compounded to provide a
20 dosage form affording the advantage of prolonged action. For example, the tablet or pill can comprise an inner dosage and an outer dosage component, the latter being in the form of an envelope over the former. The two components can be separated by an enteric layer which serves to resist disintegration in the stomach and permits the inner component to
25 pass intact into the duodenum or to be delayed in release. A variety of materials can be used for such enteric layers or coatings, such materials including a number of polymeric acids and mixtures of polymeric acids with such materials as shellac, cetyl alcohol and cellulose acetate.

 The liquid forms in which the novel compositions of the present
30 invention may be incorporated for administration orally include aqueous solutions, suitably flavoured syrups, aqueous or oil suspensions, and

flavoured emulsions with edible oils such as cottonseed oil, sesame oil, coconut oil, peanut oil or soybean oil, as well as elixirs and similar pharmaceutical vehicles. Suitable dispersing or suspending agents for aqueous suspensions include synthetic and natural gums such as

5 tragacanth, acacia, alginate, dextran, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, methylcellulose, polyvinyl-pyrrolidone or gelatin.

Compositions of the present invention may also be administered via the buccal cavity using conventional technology, for example, absorption wafers.

10 Compositions in the form of tablets, pills, capsules or wafers for oral administration are particularly preferred.

A minimum dosage level for the NK-1 receptor antagonist is about 1mg per day, preferably about 5mg per day and especially about 10mg per day. A maximum dosage level for the NK-1 receptor antagonist is about

15 1500mg per day, preferably about 1000mg per day and especially about 500mg per day. The compounds are administered once a day.

It will be appreciated that the amount of the NK-1 receptor antagonist required for use in the treatment or prevention of severe anxiety disorders will vary not only with the particular compounds or

20 compositions selected but also with the route of administration, the nature of the condition being treated, and the age and condition of the patient, and will ultimately be at the discretion of the patient's physician or pharmacist.

Two compounds of use in the present invention which are described

25 in International Patent Application No. PCT/GB97/01630 may be prepared according to the following methods:

PREPARATION 1

(2S)-1-tert-Butoxycarbonyl-2-phenylpiperidin-3-one

30 Dimethyl sulfoxide (20.80ml, 22.90g, 29.3mmol) in dichloromethane (75ml) was added dropwise to a cooled (-70°C) solution of oxalyl chloride

(13.95ml, 20.30g, 160mmol) in dichloromethane (350ml). The mixture was stirred at -70°C for 15 minutes, then (2*S*,3*S*)-1-*tert*-butoxycarbonyl-3-hydroxy-2-phenylpiperidine (prepared by the method described in European Patent Specification number 0 528 495-A; 36.91g, 133mmol) in dichloromethane (150ml) was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred at -70 °C for 20 minutes, then allowed to warm to -30°C. The mixture was cooled to -50 °C and triethylamine (55.95ml, 40.45g, 400mmol) was added slowly. The mixture was allowed to warm to 0°C and diluted with ice-cooled dichloromethane (250ml). The mixture was washed with ice cold aqueous citric acid solution (5%, 2x300ml) and water (300ml), dried (MgSO₄), and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure to give the title compound as a yellow oil (42.3g), which was used immediately without further purification. ¹H NMR (250MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.5-7.3 (5H, m), 5.8 (1H, br s), 4.2 (1H, br s), 3.4 (1H, m), 2.6 (2H, m), 2.0 (2H, m), and 1.54 (9H, s).

PREPARATION 2

(2*S*,3*R*)-1-*tert*-Butoxycarbonyl-3-hydroxy-3-(2-methylene-3-phenoxypropyl)-2-phenylpiperidine

A solution of 3-(chloromagnesio)-2-(phenoxymethyl)-1-propene in THF (0.91M, 3ml) (Louw *et. al.*, *Tetrahedron*, 48, 6087-6104, 1992, prepared from 2.74mmol of 3-chloro-2-(phenoxymethyl)-1-propene) was slowly added to a solution of (2*S*)-1-*tert*-butoxycarbonyl-2-phenylpiperidine-3-one (Preparation 1) in THF (3ml). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 hours, then saturated aqueous ammonium chloride (20ml) was added and the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (20ml). The organic phase was washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄) and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with hexane/ethyl acetate (100:0 increasing to 80:20) to give the title compound. ¹H NMR (360MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.48 (2H, d, *J*=6.9 Hz), 7.35-7.2 (6H, m), 6.9-6.88 (3H, m), 5.4

(1H, s), 5.15 (2H, d, $J=13.7$ Hz), 4.61 (2H, s), 4.11 (2H, m), 3.17 (1H, m), 2.66 and 2.59 (2H, AB d, $J=14.0$ Hz), 1.95 (2H, m), 1.79 (2H, m), and 1.36 (9H, s). m/z (ES^+) 424 ($M+1$).

5

PREPARATION 3

(5*R*,6*S*)-3-Methylene-6-phenyl-1-oxa-7-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)aza-spiro[4.5]decane

To a cooled ($-80\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$) solution of (2*S*,3*R*)-1-*tert*-butoxycarbonyl-3-hydroxy-3-(2-methylene-3-phenoxypropyl)-2-phenylpiperidine (Preparation 10 2, 1.53g, 3.62mmol) in THF (20ml) was added *n*-butyl lithium (2.5M in hexanes, 1.45ml, 3.62mmol) followed by a solution of zinc chloride (0.5M in THF, 7.24ml, 3.62mmol). The solution was allowed to warm to room temperature and tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium (0) (0.23g, 0.2mmol) was added. The mixture was degassed with bubbling nitrogen 15 and heated under reflux for 16 hours. The mixture was cooled and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was partitioned between ethyl acetate and 2M sodium hydroxide. The organic phase was washed with saturated brine, dried (MgSO_4) and purified by chromatography on a column containing silica gel (eluting with hexane 20 containing increasing proportions of ethyl acetate between 0% to 5%). Evaporation of the fractions gave (6*S*,5*R*)-3-methylene-6-phenyl-1-oxa-7-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)aza-spiro[4.5]decane. ^1H NMR (360MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.58 (2H, d, $J=8.4$ Hz), 7.32-7.21 (3H, m), 5.23 (1H, s), 5.06 (1H, m), 4.97 (1H, m), 4.39 (2H, AB d, $J=13.3$ Hz), 3.99 (1H, dd, $J=13.3, 4.48$ Hz), 2.83 25 (1H, ABd $J=15.5$ Hz), 2.7 (1H, td $J=12.5, 3.93$ Hz), 2.5 (1H, ABd, $J=15.4$ Hz), 2.15 (2H, td, $J=12., .4$ Hz), 1.69 (2H, m), and 1.46 (9H, s). m/z (ES^+) 329 ($M+2\text{H}-^t\text{BuOCO}$).

PREPARATION 4

(5R,6S)-3-Keto-6-phenyl-1-oxa-7-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)aza-spiro[4.5]decane

Through a cooled (-80 °C) solution of (5R,6S)-3-methylene-6-phenyl-1-oxa-7-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)aza-spiro[4.5]decane (Preparation 3; 0.665g)
5 in dichloromethane (5ml) and methanol (5ml) was bubbled a mixture of ozone and oxygen for 45 minutes. After the solution had been purged with nitrogen, dimethyl sulphide (0.5ml) was added and then stirred under nitrogen at room temperature for 16 hours. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue partitioned between ethyl acetate and water. The
10 organic phase was dried (MgSO₄), evaporated and the residue purified by chromatography on a column containing silica gel (eluting with hexane containing increasing proportions of ethyl acetate between 0% to 10%). Evaporation of the fractions gave the title compound. ¹H NMR (250MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.58 (2H, d, *J*=6.2 Hz), 7.37-7.26 (3H, m), 5.3 (1H, s), 4.15 and
15 4.09 (2H, AB d, *J*=17.4 Hz), 3.97 (1H, m), 2.80 (1H, td, *J*=12.9, 4.0 Hz), 2.74 and 2.48 (2H, ABd, *J*=18.1 Hz), 2.29 (2H, m), 1.88-1.63 (2H, m), and 1.44 (9H, s). *m/z* (ES⁺) 332 (M+1).

PREPARATION 5

(5R,6S)-3-Trifluoromethylsulfonyloxy-6-phenyl-1-oxa-7-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)aza-spiro[4.5]dec-3-ene

To a cooled (-80 °C) solution of 1M sodium hexamethyldisilazide (0.38ml, 0.38mmol) in THF was added a solution of (5R,6S)-3-keto-6-phenyl-1-oxa-7-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)aza-spiro[4.5]decane (Preparation 4;
25 0.105mg, 0.319mmol) in THF (3ml). The solution was stirred for 1 hours at -80°C then a solution of 2-[N,N-bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)amino]-5-chloropyridine (0.163g, 0.415mmol) in THF (3ml) was added. The solution was stirred at -80°C for 30 minutes then at room temperature for 30 minutes before being quenched by addition of saturated ammonium
30 chloride solution and ethyl acetate. The dried (MgSO₄) organic phase was purified by chromatography on a column containing silica gel (eluting with

hexane containing increasing proportions of ethyl acetate between 0% to 5%). Evaporation of the fractions gave the title compound. ^1H NMR (360MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.4 (2H, d, $J=7.3$ Hz), 7.3-7.22 (3H, m), 6.01 (1H, t, $J=2.13$ Hz), 5.13 (1H, s), 4.56 and 4.26 (2H, ABdd, $J=12.4, 1.97$ Hz), 4.10 (1H, dt, $J=12.6, 4.22$ Hz), 3.00 (1H, m), 2.28-2.04 (2H, m), 1.88-1.76 (2H, m), and 1.37 (9H, s). m/z (ES^+) 464 ($M+1$).

PREPARATION 6

(5R,6S)-3-Trimethylstannyl-6-phenyl-1-oxa-7-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)aza-spiro[4.5]dec-3-ene

To a degassed solution of (5R,6S)-3-trifluoromethylsulfonyloxy-6-phenyl-1-oxa-7-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)aza-spiro[4.5]dec-3-ene (Preparation 5; 0.482g, 1.04mmol), lithium chloride (0.264g, 6.25mmol), lithium carbonate (0.076g) and hexamethyl distannane (0.96g, 2.9mmol) in THF (10ml) was added triphenylphosphine palladium (0) (0.06g). The solution was degassed and then heated at 60°C for 5 hours under nitrogen. Water (20ml) and ethyl acetate (20ml) were added and the dried organic phase was purified by chromatography on a column containing silica gel (eluting with hexane containing increasing proportions of ethyl acetate between 0% to 5%). Evaporation of the fractions gave the title compound as a crystalline solid. ^1H NMR (360MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.25 (2H, d, $J=7.3$ Hz), 7.1-7.0 (3H, m), 5.83 (1H, t, $J=2.5$ Hz), 4.78 (1H, s), 4.48 and 4.02 (2H, dd, $J=12.9, 2.3$ Hz), 3.96 (1H, dd, $J=6.16, 13.4$ Hz), 2.95 (1H, td, $J=13.3, 4.5$ Hz), 1.84 (1H, m), 1.68 (1H, m), 1.60 (2H, m), 1.19 (9H, s), and 0.0 (6H, s).

PREPARATION 7

(2S,3R)-1-tert-Butoxycarbonyl-3-(3-hydroxypropyn-1-yl)-2-phenylpiperidine-3-ol

O-Trimethylsilylpropargyl alcohol (24.51ml, 20.47g, 160ml) was added slowly to a cooled (-10°C) solution of ethylmagnesium bromide (1M in tetrahydrofuran, 160ml, 160mmol). The mixture was stirred at 0°C for

20 minutes, then at room temperature for 2 hours. The mixture was cooled to -10°C and a solution of (2*S*)-1-*tert*-butoxycarbonyl-2-phenylpiperidin-3-one (Preparation 1; 42.3g) in tetrahydrofuran (200ml) was added dropwise over 30 minutes. (Internal temperature below -5°C).

5 The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 14 hours, poured into water (300ml) and saturated aqueous ammonium chloride (300ml) and extracted with ethyl acetate (2x300ml). The combined organic fractions were washed with brine (300ml), dried (MgSO₄) and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in ethyl

10 acetate (500ml) and a solution of tetrabutylammonium fluoride (1M in THF, 160ml, 160mmol) was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 minutes, water (300ml) was added, and the layers were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (2x300ml) and the combined organic fractions were washed with

15 water (300ml) and brine (300ml), dried (MgSO₄) and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure to give the crude title compound as an orange oil (45g). The crude material was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with hexane/ethyl acetate (90:10 increasing to 25:75) to give the title compound as an amber oil (32.2g). ¹H

20 NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.53-7.55 (2H, m), 7.19-7.35 (3H, m), 5.56 (1H, s), 4.27 (2H, s), 3.99-4.03 (1H, m), 3.25 (1H, br s), 2.77-2.81 (1H, m), 2.77 (1H, br s), 2.12-2.20 (1H, m), 1.91-1.99 (2H, m), 1.77-1.83 (1H, m), and 1.39 (9H, s).

PREPARATION 8

25 2-Bromo-4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenol

To a cooled (0 °C) solution of 4-trifluoromethoxyphenol (35.6g, 0.2mol) in chloroform (280ml) was added dropwise a solution of bromine (32g, 0.2mol) in chloroform (50ml). The solution was stirred at 0°C for 1 hour and at room temperature for 2 hours. Dichloromethane (200ml) and

30 water (400ml) were added and the organic phase was washed further with water(400ml), brine (200ml) and dried (MgSO₄). The solvent was removed

and the residue was purified by distillation at reduced pressure to give the title compound. ^1H NMR (250MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.38 (1H, d, $J=2.1$ Hz), 7.13 (1H, dd, $J=9.1$, 2.1 Hz), 7.03 (1H, d, $J=9.1$ Hz), and 5.53 (1H, s).

5

PREPARATION 9

2-Benzylloxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)bromobenzene

2-Bromo-4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenol (Preparation 8; 5g, 20mmol) was dissolved in *N,N*-dimethylformamide (60ml), and potassium carbonate (5.4g, 40mmol) was added, followed by benzyl bromide (3.5ml, 30mmol),
10 and the reaction was stirred at ambient temperature for 15 hours. The reaction was diluted with water (150ml) and extracted into ethyl acetate (3x60ml). The combined organic fractions were washed with water (100ml), brine (100ml), dried (MgSO_4) and evaporated *in vacuo*. Purification on silica, eluting with 2% and 5% ethyl acetate in hexane gave
15 the title compound as a clear oil (6.7g, 96%). ^1H NMR (250MHz, CDCl_3) δ 5.47 (2H, s), 7.23 (1H, d, $J=9$ Hz), 7.43 (1H, dd $J=8.2$, 2.9 Hz), and 7.75 (6H, m).

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PREPARATION 10

Z-(2*S*,3*R*)-1-*tert*-Butoxycarbonyl-3-(3-hydroxyprop-1-en-1-yl)-2-phenylpiperidin-3-ol

Palladium on calcium carbonate, poisoned with lead (Lindlar catalyst, 2g) was added to a solution of (2*S*,3*R*)-1-*tert*-butoxycarbonyl-3-(3-hydroxypropyn-1yl)-2-phenylpiperidin-3-ol (Preparation 7; 32g, 96.6mmol)
25 in ethyl acetate (300ml) and the mixture was stirred under hydrogen (1 atmosphere) for 4 hours. The mixture was filtered and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure to give the title compound as an oil (32g, 100%). ^1H NMR (360MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.42 (2H, d, $J=7.6$ Hz), 7.35-7.25 (3H, m), 5.83 (1H, d, $J=12.3$ Hz), 5.68 (1H, dt, $J=12.3$, 6.0 Hz), 5.06 (1H, s),
30

4.27 (1H, m), 4.12 (2H, m), 3.32 (1H, m), 3.13 (1H, s), 2.28 (1H, t, $J=5.9$ Hz), 2.02 (1H, m), 1.92-1.78 (3H, m), and 1.32 (9H, s). m/z (ES⁺) 334 (M+1).

PREPARATION 11

5 (5R,6S)-6-Phenyl-1-oxa-7-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)aza-spiro[4.5]dec-3-ene

Diethylazodicarboxylate (18.2ml, 115mmol) in THF (100ml) was added dropwise to a solution of *Z*-(2*S*,3*R*)-1-*tert*-butoxycarbonyl-3-(3-hydroxyprop-1-en-1-yl)-2-phenylpiperidin-3-ol (Preparation 10; 32g, 96mmol) and triphenylphosphine (30.2g, 115mmol) in THF (700ml). The mixture was stirred at 0°C for 30 minutes then at room temperature for 1.5 hours. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with hexane/ethyl acetate (95:5 increasing to 80:20) to give the title compound as a colorless solid (23.4g, 77%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.45 (2H, d, $J=7.4$ Hz), 7.27 (2H, t, $J=7.4$ Hz), 7.20 (1H, t, $J=7.4$ Hz), 6.03 (1H, dt, $J=6.1, 2.0$ Hz), 5.68 (1H, dt, $J=6.1, 2.0$ Hz), 5.06 (1H, s), 4.61 (1H, dt, $J=13.1, 2.0$ Hz), 4.32 (1H, dt, $J=13.1, 2.0$ Hz), 4.08 (1H, m), 3.05 (1H, m), 2.05 (1H, m), 1.75 (3H, m), and 1.37 (9H, s). m/z (ES⁺) 316 (M+1).

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PREPARATION 12

2-Benzoyloxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)benzene

Benzyl bromide (66.17ml, 95.35g, 0.56mol) was added to a mixture of 4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenol (90.26g, 0.51mol) and potassium carbonate (140.97g, 1.2mol) in dimethylformamide (160ml) and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 72 hours. The mixture was poured into water (1.5 l) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3x500ml). The combined organic fractions were washed with aqueous sodium carbonate (saturated, 500ml), dried (MgSO₄) and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure to give the title compound as a colorless solid (133.5g, 99%). ¹H NMR (360MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39 (5H, m), 7.14 (2H, d, $J=9.0$ Hz), 6.95 (2H, d, $J=9.0$ Hz), and 5.05 (2H, s).

PREPARATION 13

2-Benzyloxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)iodobenzene

Iodine (71.96g, 0.28mol) in chloroform was added dropwise to a
5 mixture of 2-benzyloxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)benzene (Preparation 12,
73.06g, 0.27mol) and silver trifluoroacetate (71.57g, 0.32mol) in
dichloromethane and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 18
hours. The mixture was filtered through celite, washed with aqueous
sodium thiosulfate (5%, 2x2 l), dried (MgSO₄) and the solvent was
10 evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash
column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with hexane/ethyl acetate, to
give the title compound as a colorless oil (108.03g), containing 11%
unreacted 2-benzyloxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)iodobenzene. ¹H NMR
(360MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.67 (1H, d, *J*=2.8 Hz), 7.40 (5H, m), 7.16 (1H, dd,
15 *J*=8.9, 2.8 Hz), 6.82 (1H, d, *J*=8.9 Hz), and 5.14 (2H, s).

PREPARATION 14

(5*R*,6*S*)-3-(2-Benzyloxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)-6-phenyl-1-oxa-7-(*tert*- butoxycarbonyl)aza-spiro[4.5]dec-3-ene

20 (5*R*,6*S*)-3-Trimethylstannyl-6-phenyl-1-oxa-7-(*tert*-
butoxycarbonyl)aza-spiro[4.5]dec-3-ene (Preparation 6; 6.43mmol), lithium
chloride (0.163g), benzyloxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)phenol (Preparation 9;
7.7mmol) in toluene (25ml) was degassed before addition of
triphenylphosphine palladium (0) (0.37g). The solution was degassed
25 thoroughly before heating to 110°C for 14 hours. The solution was
partitioned between water and ethyl acetate and the dried organic phase
was purified by chromatography on a column containing silica gel (eluting
with hexane containing increasing proportions of ethyl acetate between 0%
to 4%) to give the title compound. ¹H NMR (360MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.33 (9H,
30 s), 1.65 (1H, m), 1.76 (2H, m), 2.08 (1H, m), 3.11 (1H, m), 4.08 (1H, m),
4.60 (1H, dd, *J*=12.2 Hz, *J*=2 Hz), 4.92 (1H, dd, *J*=12.1 Hz, *J*=1.8 Hz), 5.08

(1H, s), 5.1 (2H, q, $J=11.5$ Hz), 6.65 (1H, s), 6.94 (2H, d, $J=8.9$ Hz), 7.08 (1H, d, $J=9$ Hz), 7.18 (2H, t, $J=8.1$ Hz), 7.25 (3H, m), 7.38 (5H, m).

PREPARATION 15

5 (3*S*,5*R*,6*S*)-3-(2-Hydroxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)-6-phenyl-1-oxa-7-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)aza-spiro[4.5]decane

(5*R*,6*S*)-3-(2-Benzoyloxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)-6-phenyl-1-oxa-7-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)aza-spiro[4.5]dec-3-ene (Preparation 14) (3.88g) was dissolved in ethyl acetate (15ml) and methanol (15ml). Palladium
10 hydroxide on carbon (1.00g) was added and the suspension was shaken under a hydrogen atmosphere (50 psi) for 72 hours. The mixture was filtered and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by medium pressure chromatography on silica gel, eluting with hexane/ethyl acetate (75:25) to give (3*R*,5*R*,6*S*)-3-(2-hydroxy-
15 5-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)-6-phenyl-1-oxa-7-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)aza-spiro[4.5]decane (191mg), ^1H NMR (250MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.70 (2H, d, $J=7.3$ Hz), 7.33 (2H, t, $J=7.3$ Hz), 7.26 (1H, d, $J=7.3$ Hz), 7.05 (1H, br s), 6.96 (2H, m), 6.82 (1H, d, $J=9.4$ Hz), 5.43 (1H, s), 4.27 (1H, m), 4.01 (1H, m), 3.95 (1H, m), 3.73 (1H, m), 2.73 (2H, m), 2.33 (1H, m), 1.87-1.58 (4H, m);
20 and 1.50 (9H, s).and (3*S*,5*R*,6*S*)-3-(2-hydroxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)-6-phenyl-1-oxa-7-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)aza-spiro[4.5]decane (2.3g), ^1H NMR (360MHz, CDCl_3) δ 1.38 (9H, s), 1.73 (2H, m), 1.81 (1H, m), 2.18 (2H, m), 2.50 (1H, m), 2.81 (1H, m), 3.62 (1H, t, $J=7.2$ Hz), 3.92 (1H, m), 3.98 (1H, d, $J=13.2$ Hz), 4.23 (1H, m), 5.33 (1H, s), 6.75 (1H, d, $J=8.5$ Hz), 6.94 (2H,
25 m), 7.25 (1H, m), 7.31 (2H, m), and 7.55 (2H, d, $J=7.8$ Hz).

PREPARATION 16

(3*R*,5*R*,6*S*)-3-(2-Benzoyloxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)-6-phenyl-1-oxa-7-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)aza-spiro[4.5]decane

30 A mixture of 2-benzoyloxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)iodobenzene (Preparation 13, 21.8g, 55.2mmol), (5*R*,6*S*)-6-phenyl-1-oxa-7-(*tert*-

butoxycarbonyl)aza-spiro[4.5]dec-3-ene (Preparation 11, 7.0g, 22.1mmol), tetra-n-butylammonium chloride (6.18g, 22.2mmol), lithium chloride (9.35g, 0.22mol) and potassium formate (5.64g, 67.0mmol) in dimethylformamide (100ml) was degassed with a firestone valve (5 x).

5 Palladium acetate (491mg, 2.2mmol) was added and the mixture was degassed with a firestone valve (5 x). The mixture was stirred at 60°C for 15 hours, then further 2-benzyloxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)iodobenzene (Preparation 13, 4.32g, 11.0mmol), potassium formate (2.78g, 33.5mmol) and palladium acetate (260mg, 1.1mmol) were added. The mixture was

10 stirred at 60°C for 22 hours, cooled and filtered. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, water (600ml) was added and the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (2x300ml). The combined organic fractions were washed with brine (300ml), dried (MgSO₄) and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified

15 by flash column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with hexane/dichloromethane (75:25 increasing to 0:100) then dichloromethane/ethyl acetate (95:5), to give the title compound (9.42g, 73%). ¹H NMR (360MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.56 (2H, d, *J*=7.7 Hz), 7.40-7.20 (8H, m), 7.14 (1H, d, *J*=2.0 Hz), 7.00 (1H, dd, *J*=8.9, 2.0 Hz), 6.88 (1H, d, *J*=8.9

20 Hz), 5.30 (1H, s), 5.08 (2H, s), 4.27 (1H, m), 3.97 (1H, m), 3.87 (2H, m), 2.78 (1H, m), 2.56 (1H, m), 2.15 (1H, m), 1.96 (1H, m), 1.67 (3H, m), and 1.42 (9H, s).

PREPARATION 17

25 (3*R*,5*R*,6*S*)-3-(2-Hydroxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)-6-phenyl-1-oxa-7-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)aza-spiro[4.5]decane

Palladium on carbon (10%, 0.59g) was added to a solution of (3*R*,5*R*,6*S*)-3-(2-benzyloxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)-6-phenyl-1-oxa-7-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)aza-spiro[4.5]decane (Preparation 16, 6.10g,

30 10.5mmol) in methanol-water (99:1, 200ml) and the mixture was stirred under hydrogen (50 psi.) for 72 hours. The mixture was filtered, washing

with ethanol, and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with dichloromethane/ethyl acetate (99:1 increasing to 90:10) to give the title compound. ¹H NMR (360MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.70 (2H, d, *J*=7.3 Hz), 7.33 (2H, t, *J*=7.3 Hz), 7.26 (1H, d, *J*=7.3 Hz), 7.05 (1H, br s), 6.96 (2H, m), 6.82 (1H, d, *J*=9.4 Hz), 5.43 (1H, s), 4.27 (1H, m), 4.01 (1H, m), 3.95 (1H, m), 3.73 (1H, m), 2.73 (2H, m), 2.33 (1H, m), 1.87-1.58 (4H, m), and 1.50 (9H, s).

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PREPARATION 18

(3*S*,5*R*,6*S*)-3-[2-(1-Phenylthiocycloprop-1-yl)oxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-6-phenyl-1-oxa-7-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)aza-spiro[4.5]decane

(3*S*,5*R*,6*S*)-3-(2-Hydroxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)-6-phenyl-1-oxa-7-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)aza-spiro[4.5]decane (Preparation 15) (290mg, 0.59mmol) was dissolved in toluene (5ml) and silver carbonate (179mg, 0.65mmol) was added in one portion. (1-Iodocycloprop-1-yl)phenylsulfide (Cohen T. and Matz J. R., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1980**, *102*, 6902) (180mg, 0.65mmol) was then added over one minute at room temperature. The mixture was stirred at 55°C for 4 hours, then further portions of silver carbonate (179mg, 0.65mmol) and (1-iodocycloprop-1-yl)phenylsulfide (180mg, 0.65mmol) were added. The mixture was stirred at 55°C for a further 3 hours, cooled, filtered and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with hexane/ethyl acetate (90:10 increasing to 80:20) to give the title compound as a colourless oil (120mg, 32%). ¹H NMR (250MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.55-7.44 (4H, m), 7.36-7.23 (7H, m), 7.13-7.02 (2H, m), 5.16 (1H, br s), 4.09 (1H, t, *J*=6 Hz), 4.03-3.92 (1H, m), 3.67-3.49 (2H, m), 2.94-2.79 (1H, m), 2.26 (1H, dd, *J*=7.9, 12.9 Hz), 2.15-2.01 (2H, m), 1.76-1.59 (3H, m), 1.53-1.45 (4H, m), and 1.36 (9H, s). *m/z* (ES⁺) 642 (M+1).

PREPARATION 19

(3*R*,5*R*,6*S*)-3-[2-(1-Phenylthiocycloprop-1-yl)oxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-6-phenyl-1-oxa-7-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)aza-spiro[4.5]decane

- 5 Prepared from (3*R*,5*R*,6*S*)-3-(2-hydroxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl)-6-phenyl-1-oxa-7-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)aza-spiro[4.5]decane (Preparation 17) according to the method of Preparation 18. ¹H NMR (360MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.57 (2H, app. d, *J*=7.6 Hz), 7.45 (2H, app. d, *J*=7.7 Hz), 7.36-7.19 (7H, m), 7.16-7.06 (2H, m), 5.28 (1H, br s),
10 4.13 (1H, app. t, *J*=7.8 Hz), 3.96 (1H, br. d, *J*=13 Hz), 3.80-3.60 (2H, m), 2.79 (1H, br. t, *J*=13 Hz), 2.50 (1H, dd, *J*=13, 7.9 Hz), 2.17 (1H, dt, *J*=13, 4.6 Hz), 1.80 (1H, dd, *J*=12, 9.8 Hz), 1.75-1.38 (7H, m), and 1.44 (9H, s).
m/z (ES⁺) 642 (M+1).

PREPARATION 20

15 (3*S*,5*R*,6*S*)-3-[2-Cyclopropoxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-6-phenyl-1-oxa-7-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)aza-spiro[4.5]decane

- Naphthalene (120mg, 0.936mmol) was dissolved in THF (1.5ml) under nitrogen and freshly cut lithium metal (7.0mg, 0.94mmol) was
20 added. The mixture was then sonicated at room temperature for 20 minutes to produce a dark green solution of lithium naphthalenide. This solution was cooled to -78 °C, then (3*S*,5*R*,6*S*)-3-[2-(1-phenylthiocycloprop-1-yl)oxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-6-phenyl-1-oxa-7-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)aza-spiro[4.5]decane (Preparation 18) (120mg, 0.187mmol)
25 in THF (0.5ml) was added over 1 minute. The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 minutes, then water (5ml) and ether (10ml) were added. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with ether (10ml). The combined organic fractions were dried (MgSO₄) and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified
30 by column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with hexane/ethyl acetate (90:10 increasing to 80:20) to give the title compound as a colourless oil

(58.6mg, 59%). ¹H NMR (250MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.58-7.52 (2H, m), 7.36-7.17 (4H, m), 7.10-7.01 (2H, m), 5.18 (1H, br s), 4.20 (1H, t, *J*=6.7 Hz), 4.05-3.95 (1H, m), 3.76-3.55 (3H, m), 2.92-2.79 (1H, m), 2.37 (1H, dd, *J*=12.9, 7.8 Hz), 2.18-2.06 (2H, m), 1.80-1.67 (3H, m), 1.38 (9H, s), and 0.86-0.73 (4H, m). *m/z* (ES⁺) 534 (M+1).

PREPARATION 21

(3*R*,5*R*,6*S*)-3-[2-Cyclopropoxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-6-phenyl-1-oxa-7-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)aza-spiro[4.5]decane

10 Naphthalene (120mg, 0.936mmol) was dissolved in THF (1.5ml) under nitrogen and freshly cut lithium metal (7.0mg, 0.94mmol) was added. The mixture was then sonicated at room temperature for 20 minutes to produce a dark green solution of lithium naphthalenide. A solution of (3*R*,5*R*,6*S*)-3-[2-(1-phenylthiocycloprop-1-yl)oxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-6-phenyl-1-oxa-7-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)aza-spiro[4.5]decane (Preparation 19, 135mg, 0.21mmol) in THF (2ml) under nitrogen was cooled to -78°C and the solution of lithium naphthalenide in THF was added dropwise until the intense green colour persisted. The reaction was then stirred for one minute, water (5ml) was added and the mixture was warmed to room temperature. Ether (10ml) was added and the layers were separated. The aqueous phase was extracted with a further portion of ether (10ml) and the combined organic phases were dried (MgSO₄) and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with hexane/ethyl acetate (50:50) to give the title compound as a colourless oil (87mg, 78%). ¹H NMR (360MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.59 (2H, app. d, *J*=7.6 Hz), 7.32 (2H, app. t, *J*=7.6 Hz), 7.27-7.18 (2H, m), 7.11-7.03 (2H, m), 5.32 (1H, br s), 4.29-4.21 (1H, m), 3.97 (1H, br. d, *J*=13 Hz), 3.83-3.68 (3H, m), 2.76 (1H, dt, *J*=13, 4.1 Hz), 2.55 (1H, dd, *J*=13, 7.2 Hz), 2.22 (1H, dt, *J*=12, 5.2 Hz), 1.85 (1H, dd, *J*=13, 9.9 Hz), 1.80-1.63 (3H, m), 1.46 (9H, s), and 0.82-0.76 (4H, m). *m/z* (ES⁺) 534 (M+1).

COMPOUND A

(3S,5R,6S)-3-[2-Cyclopropoxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-6-phenyl-1-oxa-7-aza-spiro[4.5]decane Hydrochloride

- 5 Trifluoroacetic acid (2.5ml) was added dropwise to a stirred, cooled (0°C) solution of (3S,5R,6S)-3-[2-cyclopropoxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-6-phenyl-1-oxa-7-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)aza-spiro[4.5]decane (Preparation 20; 492mg, 0.92mmol) in dichloromethane (25ml) and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 hours. The mixture was poured into
- 10 water (50ml), the pH was adjusted to 10.0 with aqueous sodium hydroxide (4M) and the mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (3x50ml). The combined organic fractions were dried (MgSO₄) and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with
- 15 dichloromethane/methanol/ammonia (aq.) (96:4:0.4 increasing to 94:6:0.6). The residue was dissolved in ethanol (20ml), cooled in ice and ethereal hydrogen chloride (1M, 1.8ml, 1.8mmol) was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred at 0°C for 5 minutes, then the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was crystallized from ether (20ml)/ethanol
- 20 (0.5ml) and the solid was collected and dried *in vacuo* to give the title compound as a colorless solid (354mg, 89%). m.p. 214-216 °C, ¹H NMR (500MHz, CD₃OD) δ 7.59 (2H, m), 7.52 (3H, m), 7.26 (1H, d, *J*=8.9 Hz), 7.03 (1H, dd, *J*=8.9, 2.2 Hz), 6.20 (1H, d, *J*=2.2 Hz), 4.85 (2H, br s), 4.43 (1H, s), 4.19 (1H, t, *J*=8.0 Hz), 3.87 (1H, quin, *J*=8.0 Hz), 3.76 (1H, m),
- 25 3.44 (1H, m), 3.25 (2H, m) 2.29-1.78 (6H, m), 0.80 (2H, m), and 0.66 (2H, m). m/z (ES⁺) 434 (M+1). Found: C, 61.41; H, 5.51; N, 3.08. C₂₄H₂₆F₃NO₃.HCl requires: C, 61.34; H, 5.79; N, 2.98%.

COMPOUND B

(3R,5R,6S)-3-[2-Cyclopropoxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-6-phenyl-1-oxa-7-aza-spiro[4.5]decane

Prepared from the compound of Preparation 21 according to the method used for Compound A. ¹H NMR (360MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.50-7.42 (2H, m), 7.36-7.26 (3H, m), 7.03 (1H, d, *J*=8.9 Hz), 6.95 (1H, br. d, *J*=8.9 Hz), 6.81 (1H, br s), 3.92 (1H, t, *J*=7.4 Hz), 3.62-3.53 (2H, m), 3.50 (1H, s), 3.20 (1H, dd, *J*=12, 4.2 Hz), 2.77 (1H, dt, *J*=12, 2.8 Hz), 2.30-1.93 (4H, m), 1.87 (1H, br s), 1.71-1.49 (3H, m), 0.76-0.65 (2H, m), and 0.65-0.54 (2H, m). *m/z* (ES⁺) 434 (M+1).

A further compound and diastereomers thereof of use in the present invention may be prepared according to the following method:

DESCRIPTION 1

2-(1-Phenylthiocycloprop-1-yl)oxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)benzaldehyde

Silver carbonate (1.2 g, 4.34 mmol) was added to a solution of 2-hydroxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)benzaldehyde (0.5 g, 2.43 mmol) and (1-iodocycloprop-1-yl)phenylsulfide (Cohen T. and Matz J. R., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1980, 102, 6902) (1.2 g, 4.34 mmol) in toluene (30 mL) and the mixture was stirred at 40 °C overnight. The mixture was cooled, diluted with ethyl acetate and filtered, washing well with ethyl acetate. The mixture was washed with aqueous sodium hydroxide, dried (MgSO₄) and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with hexane/Et₂O (95:5), to give the title compound as a yellow oil (191 mg, 27%). ¹H NMR (360MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.51-1.56 (2H, m), 1.44-1.48 (2H, m), 7.25-7.35 (7H, m), 7.69 (1H, d, *J* 2.0 Hz), and 10.26 (1H, s).

DESCRIPTION 2

2-Cyclopropoxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)benzaldehyde

Freshly cut lithium metal (97 mg, 13.9 mmol) was added to a solution of naphthalene (1.77 g, 13.9 mmol) in THF (20 mL) and the mixture was sonicated at room temperature for 30 min. to produce a dark green solution of lithium naphthalenide. A solution of 2-(1-phenylthiocycloprop-1-yl)oxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)benzaldehyde (Description 1, 96 mg, 0.27 mmol) in THF (2 mL) was cooled to -78 °C and the solution of lithium naphthalenide in THF (2 mL) was added dropwise until the intense green colour persisted. The reaction was then stirred for 5 min., water (6 mL) was added and the mixture was warmed to room temperature. The mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate, the combined organic fractions were dried (MgSO₄) and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with hexane/Et₂O (80:20), to give to give the title compound as a colourless oil (4 mg, 6%). ¹H NMR (360MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.86 (4H, m), 3.82-3.9 (1H, m), 7.42 (2H, m), 7.62 (1H, d, *J* 2.5 Hz), and 10.36 (1H, s).

DESCRIPTION 3

2-Nitro-4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenol

Iron(III)nitrate nonahydrate (1.97 g, 4.87 mmol) was added to a solution of 4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenol (2 g, 11.24 mmol) in ethanol (20 mL) and the mixture was heated under reflux overnight. The mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, acidified to pH 1 with aqueous hydrochloric acid (1M) and extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic fractions were dried (MgSO₄), and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by short column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with hexane/EtOAc (70:30), to give the title compound as a yellow oil (2.25 g, 89%). ¹H NMR (360MHz, CDCl₃)

δ 10.53 (1H, s), 8.01 (1H, d, J 3.0 Hz), 7.49 (1H, dd, J 9.1, 3.0 Hz), and 7.23 (1H, d, J 9.1 Hz).

DESCRIPTION 4

5 2-(1-Phenylthiocycloprop-1-yl)oxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)nitrobenzene

Prepared from the compound of Description 3 according to the method of Description 1. ^1H NMR (360MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.73 (1H, d, J 2.7 Hz), 7.58 (1H, d, J 9.2 Hz), 7.50-7.24 (6H, m), 1.57-1.53 (2H, m), and 1.44-1.40 (2H, m).

10

DESCRIPTION 5

2-Cyclopropoxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)benzeneamine

Prepared from the compound of Description 4 according to the method of Description 2. ^1H NMR (360MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.06 (1H, dd, J 2.8, 6.7 Hz), 6.56 (2H, m), 3.83 (2H, br s), 3.74 (1H, m), and 0.79 (4H, m). m/z (ES $^+$) 234 (M+1).

15

DESCRIPTION 6

2-(1-Phenylthiocycloprop-1-yl)oxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)benzeneamine

20 Iron powder (13.5 g, 241 mmol) was added to a suspension of 2-(1-phenylthiocycloprop-1-yl)oxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)nitrobenzene (Description 4, 11.27 g, 30.1 mmol) in water (300 mL) and acetic acid (75 mL) and the mixture was stirred at 80 °C overnight. The mixture was cooled and filtered through celite, washing with ether. The filtrate was
25 extracted with ether, the combined organic fractions were washed with aqueous sodium hydroxide (1M), dried (MgSO_4), and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with hexane/ Et_2O (90:10 increasing to 80:20), to give the title compound as a yellow solid (8 g, 78%).
30 ^1H NMR (360MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.48 (2H, m), 7.34-7.23 (3H, m), 7.15 (1H, d, J

8.74 Hz), 6.60-6.56 (2H, m), 3.78 (2H, br s), 1.49-1.46 (2H, m), and 1.39-1.35 (2H, m).

DESCRIPTION 7

5 2-Cyclopropoxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)benzeneamine

Prepared from the compound of Description 6 according to the method of Description 2. ¹H NMR (360MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.06 (1H, dd, *J* 2.8, 6.7 Hz), 6.56 (2H, m), 3.83 (2H, br s), 3.74 (1H, m), and 0.79 (4H, m). *m/z* (ES⁺) 234 (M+1).

10

DESCRIPTION 8

2-Cyclopropoxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)iodobenzene

An ice-cooled solution of sodium nitrite (3.55 g, 51 mmol) in water (10 mL) was added dropwise to a stirred, cooled (0 °C) solution of
15 2-cyclopropoxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)benzeneamine (Description 7, 4.8 g, 20.6 mmol) in aqueous hydrochloric acid (5M, 300 mL), maintaining the internal temperature at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min., then potassium iodide (8.55 g, 51.5 mmol) in water (10 mL) was added dropwise, maintaining the internal temperature at 0 °C. The mixture was
20 stirred at 0 °C for 30 min., then allowed to warm up to room temperature and stirred until nitrogen evolution ceased. The mixture was extracted with ether, the organic fraction was washed with aqueous sodium thiosulfate (10%), dried (MgSO₄), and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash column
25 chromatography on silica gel, eluting with hexane/Et₂O (98:2 increasing to 95:5), to give the title compound as a colourless oil (6.23 g, 88%). ¹H NMR (360MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.62 (1H, d, *J* 2.4 Hz), 7.20 (1H, dd, *J* 9.1, 2.4 Hz), 7.15 (1H, d, *J* 9.1 Hz), 3.80 (1H, m), and 0.83 (4H, m).

DESCRIPTION 9

2-Cyclopropoxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)benzaldehyde

A solution of 2-cyclopropoxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)iodobenzene (Description 8, 0.344 g, 1 mmol) in toluene (2.5 mL) was degassed with
5 bubbling nitrogen for 10 min. Tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium (0) (15 mg) was added, the mixture was degassed with bubbling nitrogen for a further 5 min., then carbon monoxide was bubbled through the mixture for 10 min. The mixture was warmed to 50 °C and a solution of tributyl tin hydride (0.3 mL, 1.1 mmol) in toluene (5 mL) was added at a rate of 2
10 mL/h. *via* a syringe pump, maintaining carbon monoxide bubbling throughout. The mixture was cooled, diluted with ether (20 mL) and aqueous potassium fluoride solution (50%) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight, filtered and the layers were separated. The organic layer was dried (MgSO₄), and the solvent was
15 evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with hexane/Et₂O (80:20), to give the title compound as a colourless oil. ¹H NMR (360MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.86 (4H, m), 3.82-3.9 (1H, m), 7.42 (2H, m), 7.62 (1H, d, *J* 2.5 Hz), and 10.36 (1H, s).

20

DESCRIPTION 10

(±)-(2*RS*)-1-*tert*-Butoxycarbonyl-2-phenylpiperidin-3-one

Dimethyl sulfoxide (32.0 mL, 35.3 g, 0.45 mol) in dichloromethane (100 mL) was added dropwise to a cooled (-70 °C) solution of oxalyl
25 chloride (18.7 mL, 27.5 g, 0.22 mol) in dichloromethane (1000 mL). The mixture was stirred at -70 °C for 15 min., then (2*S*,3*S*)-1-*tert*-butoxycarbonyl-3-hydroxy-2-phenylpiperidine (prepared by the method described in European Patent Specification number 0 528 495-A; 50 g, 0.18 mol) in dichloromethane (150 mL) was added dropwise.
30 The mixture was stirred at -70 °C for 1 h., then triethylamine (125.8 mL, 91.3 g, 0.9 mol) was added slowly. The mixture was stirred at room

temperature for 1 h., water (250 mL) and aqueous sodium hydrogen carbonate (saturated, 250 mL) were added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (2 x 300 mL). The combined
5 organic fractions were washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄) and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with hexane/EtOAc (90:10), to give the title compound as a yellow oil (45.0 g, 91%). ¹H NMR (250MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.5-7.3 (5H, m), 5.8 (1H, br s), 4.2 (1H, br s), 3.4 (1H, m), 2.6 (2H,
10 m), 2.0 (2H, m), and 1.54 (9H, s).

DESCRIPTION 11

(±)-(2R3R,2S3S)-1-(tert-Butoxycarbonyl)-2-phenylpiperidin-3-amine

A solution of hydroxylamine hydrochloride (17 g, 0.24 mol) and
15 sodium acetate (55.67 g, 0.41 mol) in water (150 mL) was added to a solution of (±)-(2R3R,2S3S)-1-(tert-butoxycarbonyl)-2-phenylpiperidin-3-one (Description 10, 45 g, 0.16 mol) in ethanol (300 mL) and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure, water was added and the mixture was extracted with
20 ethyl acetate. The organic fraction was washed with brine, dried (MgSO₄) and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in ethanol (400 mL) and Raney nickel (50 g) was added. The mixture was shaken under hydrogen (40 psi) overnight, filtered and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified
25 by flash column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (100:0 increasing to 85:15), to give the title compound as a colorless oil (10.9 g, 24%). ¹H NMR (360MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.43 (2H, d, *J* 7.0 Hz), 7.30 (3H, m), 5.19 (1H, d, *J* 6.2 Hz), 4.00 (1H, m), 3.17 (2H, m), 1.90-1.64 (4H, m), 1.36 (9H, s), and 1.26 (2H, br s).

30

COMPOUND C

(±)-(2R3R,2S3S)-N-{{2-Cyclopropoxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl}methyl}-2-phenylpiperidin-3-amine Dihydrochloride

2-Cyclopropoxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)benzaldehyde (Description 9, 55
5 mg, 0.21 mmol) was added to (±)-(2R3R,2S3S)-1-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)-2-phenylpiperidin-3-amine (Description 11, 58 mg, 0.21 mmol), citric acid (89 mg, 0.42 mmol) and 3Å molecular sieves in dry methanol (5 mL) and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1.5 h. Sodium borohydride (30 mg) was added and the mixture was stirred at room
10 temperature for 2 h. Ethyl acetate was added and the mixture was washed with aqueous hydrochloric acid (0.1M, 2 x 25 mL) and brine (25 mL), dried (MgSO₄) and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in dichloromethane (3 mL), cooled to 0 °C and trifluoroacetic acid (2 mL) was added slowly. The mixture was stirred at
15 room temperature for 1 h., the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and ethyl acetate was added. The mixture was washed with aqueous sodium hydrogen carbonate (saturated, 2 x 25 mL) and brine (25 mL), dried (MgSO₄) and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on
20 silica gel, eluting with CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/NH₃(Aq.) (96:4:0.4). The residue was dissolved in ethanol (2 mL), cooled in ice and ethereal hydrogen chloride (1M, 0.24 mL, 0.24 mmol) was added. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was recrystallised from ethanol to give the title compound as a colorless solid (20 mg, 20%). m.p. 169-171 °C. ¹H
25 NMR (400MHz, CD₃OD) δ 0.64 (1H, m), 0.80 (3H, m), 1.99 (1H, m), 2.24 (1H, m), 2.46 (2H, m), 3.30 (1H, m), 3.64 (1H, m), 3.75 (2H, m), 3.96 (1H, br s), 4.08 (1H, m), 4.95 (1H, s), 7.23 (1H, s), 7.31 (1H, d, *J* 9.0 Hz), 7.37 (1H, d, *J* 9.0 Hz), 7.54 (3H, m), and 7.67 (2H, m). m/z (ES⁺) 407 (M+1).

Particularly preferred NK-1 receptor antagonists of use in the
30 present invention are compounds which are potent NK-1 receptor

antagonists, i.e. compounds with an NK-1 receptor affinity (IC_{50}) of less than 10nM, favourably less than 2nM and preferably less than 1nM.

The class of orally active, long acting, CNS-penetrant NK-1 receptor antagonists of use in the present invention is identified using a

5 combination of the following assays:

ASSAY 1: NK-1 Receptor binding

NK-1 receptor binding assays are performed in intact Chinese
10 hamster ovary (CHO) cells expressing the human NK-1 receptor using a modification of the assay conditions described by Cascieri *et al*, *J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther.*, 1992, 42, 458. Typically, the receptor is expressed at a level of 3×10^5 receptors per cell. Cells are grown in monolayer culture, detached from the plate with enzyme-free dissociation solution
15 (Speciality Media Inc.), and washed prior to use in the assay. ^{125}I -Tyr⁸-substance P (0.1nM, 2000Ci/mmol; New England Nuclear) is incubated in the presence or absence of test compounds (dissolved in 5µl dimethylsulphoxide, DMSO) with 5×10^4 CHO cells. Ligand binding is performed in 0.25ml of 50mM Tris-HCl, pH7.5, containing 5mM $MnCl_2$,
20 150mM NaCl, 0.02% bovine serum albumin (Sigma), 50µg/ml chymostatin (Peninsula), 0.1nM phenylmethanesulphonyl fluoride, 2µg/ml pepstatin, 2µg/ml leupeptin and 2.8µg/ml furoyl saccharine. The incubation proceeds at room temperature until equilibrium is achieved (>40 minutes) and the receptor-ligand complex is harvested by filtration over GF/C filters pre-soaked in 0.1% polyethylenimine using a Tomtek 96-well harvester. Non-
25 specific binding is determined using excess substance P (1µM) and represents <10% of total binding.

ASSAY 2: Gerbil Foot-Tapping

30 CNS-penetrant NK-1 receptor antagonists for use in the present invention can be identified by their ability to inhibit foot tapping in gerbils

induced by anxiogenic agents (such as pentagastrin) or central infusion of NK-1 receptor agonists such as GR73632, or caused by aversive stimulation such as foot shock or single housing, based on the method of Rupniak & Williams, *Eur. J. Pharmacol.*, 1994, 265, 179.

5 Male or female Mongolian gerbils (35-70g) are anaesthetised by inhalation of an isoflurane/oxygen mixture to permit exposure of the jugular vein in order to permit administration of test compounds or vehicle in an injection volume of 5ml/kg i.v. Alternatively, test compounds may be administered orally or by subcutaneous or intraperitoneal routes. A skin
10 incision is then made in the midline of the scalp to expose the skull. An anxiogenic agent (e.g. pentagastrin) or a selective NK-1 receptor agonist (e.g. GR73632 (d Ala[L-Pro⁹,Me-Leu¹⁰]-substance P-(7-11)) is infused directly into the cerebral ventricles (e.g. 3pmol in 5µl i.c.v., depending on test substance) by vertical insertion of a cuffed 27 gauge needle to a depth
15 of 4.5mm below bregma. The scalp incision is closed and the animal allowed to recover from anaesthesia in a clear perspex observation box (25cm x 20cm x 20cm). The duration and/or intensity of hind foot tapping is then recorded continuously for approximately 5 minutes. Alternatively, the ability of test compounds to inhibit foot tapping evoked by aversive
20 stimulation, such as foot shock or single housing, may be studied using a similar method of quantification.

ASSAY 3: Ferret Emesis

Individually housed male ferrets (1.0 -2.5 kg) are dosed orally by
25 gavage with test compound. Ten minutes later they are fed with approximately 100g of tinned cat food. At 60 minutes following oral dosing, cisplatin (10mg/kg) is given i.v. via a jugular vein catheter, inserted under a brief period of halothane anaesthesia. The catheter is then removed, the jugular vein ligated and the skin incision closed. The
30 ferrets recover rapidly from the anaesthetic and are mobile within 10-20 minutes. The animals are observed continuously during recovery from the

anaesthetic and for 4 hours following the cisplatin injection, after which time the animals are killed humanely. The numbers of retches and vomits occurring during the 4 hours after cisplatin administration are recorded by trained observers.

5

ASSAY 4: Separation-Induced Vocalisation

Male and female guinea-pigs pups are housed in family groups with their mothers and littermates throughout the study. Experiments are commenced after weaning when the pups are 2 weeks old. Before entering
10 an experiment, the pups are screened to ensure that a vigorous vocalisation response is reproducibly elicited following maternal separation. The pups are placed individually in an observation cage (55cm x 39cm x 19cm) in a room physically isolated from the home cage for 15 minutes and the duration of vocalisation during this baseline period is
15 recorded. Only animals which vocalise for longer than 5 minutes are employed for drug challenge studies (approximately 50% of available pups may fail to reach this criterion). On test days each pup receives an oral dose or an s.c. or i.p. injection of test compound or vehicle and is then immediately returned to the home cage with its mother and siblings for 30
20 to 60 minutes (or for up to 4 hours following an oral dose, dependent upon the oral pharmacokinetics of the test compound) before social isolation for 15 minutes as described above. The duration of vocalisation on drug treatment days is expressed as a percentage of the pre-treatment baseline value for each animal. The same subjects are retested once weekly for up
25 to 6 weeks. Between 6 and 8 animals receive each test compound at each dose tested.

As used herein, the term "CNS-penetrant" refers to NK-1 receptor antagonists which are able to inhibit NK-1 receptor antagonist-induced foot-tapping in the gerbil as hereinafter defined.

30

Essentially, hind foot-tapping in the gerbil induced by infusion of the NK-1 receptor agonist, GR73632 (d Ala[L-Pro⁹,Me-Leu¹⁰]-substance P-

(7-11)), under anaesthesia, directly into the central ventricles is inhibited when a CNS-penetrant NK-1 receptor antagonist is administered intravenously immediately prior to GR73632 challenge, wherein hind foot-tapping over a period of five minutes following recovery from the anaesthesia is inhibited with an $ID_{50} \leq 3\text{mg/kg}$, and preferably with an $ID_{50} \leq 1\text{mg/kg}$.

In an alternative method, the NK-1 receptor antagonist is administered orally, 1 hour prior to GR73632 challenge, wherein the foot-tapping over a period of five minutes following recovery from anaesthesia is inhibited with an $ID_{50} \leq 30\text{mg/kg}$, and preferably with an $ID_{50} \leq 10\text{mg/kg}$.

CNS-penetrant NK-1 receptor antagonists of use in the present invention are also effective in the attenuation of separation-induced vocalisations by guinea-pig pups as hereinafter defined.

Essentially, a vocalisation response in guinea-pig pups is induced by isolation from their mothers and littermates, which response is attenuated when a CNS-penetrant NK-1 receptor antagonist is administered subcutaneously 30 minutes prior to isolation, wherein vocalisations during the first 15 minutes of isolation are attenuated with an $ID_{50} \leq 20\text{mg/kg}$, preferably with an $ID_{50} \leq 10\text{mg/kg}$, and especially with an $ID_{50} \leq 5\text{mg/kg}$.

In an alternative method, the NK-1 receptor antagonist is administered orally, 4 hours prior to isolation, wherein vocalisations during the first 15 minutes of isolation are attenuated with an $ID_{50} \leq 20\text{mg/kg}$, preferably with an $ID_{50} \leq 10\text{mg/kg}$, and especially with an $ID_{50} \leq 5\text{mg/kg}$.

A suitable selection cascade for NK_1 antagonists of use according to the present invention is as follows:

(i) Determine affinity for human NK_1 receptor in radioligand binding studies (Assay 1); select compounds with $IC_{50} \leq 10\text{nM}$, preferably $IC_{50} \leq 2\text{nM}$, especially $IC_{50} \leq 1\text{nM}$.

(ii) Determine ability of compounds to penetrate CNS by their ability to inhibit foot tapping in gerbils induced by central injection of an NK₁ agonist (Assay 2); select compounds that inhibit foot tapping with ID₅₀ ≤ 3mg/kg i.v., and preferably ID₅₀ ≤ 1mg/kg i.v. when administered
5 immediately prior to central NK₁ agonist challenge, or ID₅₀ ≤ 30mg/kg p.o., and preferably ID₅₀ ≤ 10mg/kg p.o. 1 hour prior to challenge.

(iii) Determine central duration of action of compounds in gerbil foot tapping assay following intravenous administration 24 hours prior to central NK₁ agonist challenge; select compounds showing ≤ 25-fold loss of
10 potency compared with ID₅₀ determined in step (ii) above with the proviso that ID₅₀ ≤ 10mg/kg i.v., and preferably ≤ 5mg/kg i.v. after 24 hour pre-treatment.

(iv) Determine oral bioavailability of compounds by pharmacokinetic analysis, activity in gerbil foot tapping assay following
15 oral administration and/or by ability to inhibit cisplatin-induced emesis in ferrets (Assay 3); select compounds with ID₉₀ ≤ 3mg/kg p.o., and preferably ID₉₀ ≤ 1mg/kg p.o.

Particularly preferred compounds of use in the present invention are identified using steps (i) to (iv) followed by step (v):

20 (v) Determine activity of compounds in assays sensitive to conventional antipsychotic drugs (inhibition of distress vocalisations in guinea-pig pups (Assay 4)). Select compounds with ID₅₀ ≤ 20mg/kg, and preferably ID₅₀ ≤ 10mg/kg.

Yet further preferred compounds of use in the present
25 invention may be selected from those compounds which satisfy the NK-1 receptor binding criteria of step (i) which, in addition, have ≤ 5-fold shift in affinity when incubated in the presence of human serum albumin (HSA) to show non-specific protein binding.

One example of a NK-1 receptor antagonist of use in the present
30 invention is the compound 2-(R)-(1-(R)-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-ethoxy)-3-(S)-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-(3-(5-oxo-1H,4H-1,2,4-triazolo)methyl)-

morpholine, the preparation of which is described in International Patent Specification No. WO 95/16679. In the aforementioned assays, this compound has the following activity:

human NK-1 receptor binding:	IC ₅₀ =0.1nM
gerbil foot-tapping (5 mins.):	ID ₅₀ =0.36mg/kg i.v.
gerbil foot-tapping (24 hrs.):	ID ₅₀ =0.33mg/kg i.v.
ferret emesis:	ID ₉₀ <3mg/kg p.o.
guinea-pig vocalisation (4 hr. pre-treatment):	ID ₅₀ =0.73mg/kg p.o.

5

The following example illustrates pharmaceutical compositions according to the invention.

EXAMPLE 1 Tablets containing 50-300mg of NK-1 antagonist

	<u>Amount mg</u>		
NK-1 antagonist	50.0	100.0	300.0
Microcrystalline cellulose	80.0	80.0	80.0
Modified food corn starch	80.0	80.0	80.0
Lactose	189.5	139.5	139.5
Magnesium Stearate	0.5	0.5	0.5

5 The active ingredient, cellulose, lactose and a portion of the corn starch are mixed and granulated with 10% corn starch paste. The resulting granulation is sieved, dried and blended with the remainder of the corn starch and the magnesium stearate. The resulting granulation is then compressed into tablets containing 50mg, 100mg and 300mg of the NK-1 receptor antagonist per tablet.

CLAIMS

1. Use of an orally active, long acting, CNS-penetrant NK-1
5 receptor antagonist for the manufacture of a medicament adapted for oral administration for the treatment or prevention of severe anxiety disorders without concomitant therapy with other anti-anxiety agents.
2. Use of an orally active, long acting, CNS-penetrant NK-1
10 receptor antagonist for the manufacture of a medicament adapted for oral administration for the treatment or prevention of severe anxiety disorders, without concomitant therapy with other anti-anxiety agents, in a patient who is non-responsive to benzodiazepines or for whom benzodiazepines are contraindicated.
- 15 3. Use of an orally active, long acting, CNS penetrant NK-1 receptor antagonist for the manufacture of a medicament adopted for oral administration for the treatment or prevention of severe anxiety disorders, without concomitant therapy with other anti-anxiety agents, in a patient
20 who is non-responsive to tricyclic antidepressants or for whom tricyclic antidepressants are contraindicated.
4. Use of an orally active, long acting, CNS-penetrant NK-1
25 receptor antagonist for the manufacture of a medicament adapted for oral administration for the treatment or prevention of severe anxiety disorders, without concomitant therapy with other anti-anxiety agents, in a patient who is non-responsive to SSRIs or serotonin agonists or antagonists or for whom SSRIs or serotonin agonists or antagonists are contraindicated.
- 30 5. An oral pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of severe anxiety disorders which comprises essentially an orally active, long

acting, CNS-penetrant NK-1 receptor antagonist, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

6. A method for the treatment or prevention of severe anxiety disorders without concomitant therapy with other anti-anxiety agents which method comprises the oral administration to a patient in need of such treatment of an effective amount of an orally active, long acting, CNS-penetrant NK-1 receptor antagonist.

7. A method for the treatment or prevention of severe anxiety disorders, without concomitant therapy with other anti-anxiety agents, in a patient who is non-responsive to benzodiazepines or for whom benzodiazepines are contraindicated, which method comprises oral administration to the patient in need of such treatment of an orally active, long acting, CNS-penetrant NK-1 receptor antagonist.

8. A method for the treatment or prevention of severe anxiety disorders, without concomitant therapy with other anti-anxiety agents, in a patient who is non-responsive to tricyclic antidepressants or for whom tricyclic antidepressants are contraindicated, which method comprises oral administration to the patient in need of such treatment of an effective amount of an orally active, long acting, CNS-penetrant NK-1 receptor antagonist.

9. A method for the treatment or prevention of severe anxiety disorders, without concomitant therapy with other anti-anxiety agents, in a patient who is non-responsive to SSRIs or serotonin agonists or antagonists or for whom SSRIs or serotonin agonists or antagonists are contraindicated, which method comprises oral administration to the patient in need of such treatment of an effective amount of an orally active, long acting, CNS-penetrant NK-1 receptor antagonist.

10. A use according to any one of claims 1 to 4, or a composition according to claim 5 or a method according to anyone of claims 6 to 9 wherein the orally active, long acting, CNS-penetrant NK-1 receptor antagonist is selected from the classes of compounds described in EP-A-0577394, WO-A-9508549, WO-A-9518124, WO-A-9523798, WO-A-9605181 or International Patent Application No. PCT/GB97/01630.

11. A use according to any one of claims 1 to 4, or a composition according to claim 5 or a method according to anyone of claims 6 to 9 wherein the orally active, long acting, CNS-penetrant NK-1 receptor antagonist is:

- 2-(S)-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzyloxy)-3(S)-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-(3-(5-oxo-1H,4H-1,2,4-triazolo)methyl)morpholine;
- 15 2-(R)-(1-(R)-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethoxy)-4-(3-(5-oxo-1H,4H-1,2,4-triazolo)methyl)-3-(S)-phenyl-morpholine;
- 2-(S)-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzyloxy)-4-(3-(5-oxo-1H,4H-1,2,4-triazolo)methyl)-3-(S)-phenyl-morpholine;
- 2-(R)-(1-(R)-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethoxy)-3-(S)-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-(3-(5-oxo-1H,4H-1,2,4-triazolo)methyl)morpholine;
- 20 2-(R)-(1-(R)-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethoxy)-4-(5-(N,N-dimethylamino)methyl-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)methyl-3-(S)-phenylmorpholine;
- 2-(R)-(1-(R)-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethoxy)-4-(5-(N,N-dimethylamino)methyl-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)methyl-3-(S)-(4-fluorophenyl)morpholine;
- 25 2-(R)-(1-(R)-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethoxy)-3-(S)-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-(3-(4-monophosphoryl-5-oxo-1H-1,2,4-triazolo)methyl)morpholine;
- 2-(R)-(1-(R)-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethoxy)-3-(S)-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-(3-(1-monophosphoryl-5-oxo-1H-1,2,4-triazolo)methyl)morpholine;
- 30 2-(R)-(1-(R)-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethoxy)-3-(S)-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-(3-(2-monophosphoryl-5-oxo-1H-1,2,4-triazolo)methyl)morpholine;

- 2-(R)-(1-(R)-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethoxy)-3-(S)-(4-fluorophenyl)-
4-(3-(5-oxophosphoryl-1H-1,2,4-triazolo)methyl)morpholine;
2-(S)-(1-(R)-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethoxy)-3-(S)-(4-fluorophenyl)-
4-(3-(1-monophosphoryl-5-oxo-4H-1,2,4-triazolo)methyl)morpholine;
5 2-(R)-(1-(R)-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethoxy)-4-(4-N,N-
dimethylaminobut-2-yn-yl)-3-(S)-(4-fluorophenyl)morpholine;
(3S,5R,6S)-3-[2-cyclopropoxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-6-phenyl-1-oxa-
7-aza-spiro[4.5]decane;
(3R,5R,6S)-3-[2-cyclopropoxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-6-phenyl-1-oxa-
10 7-aza-spiro[4.5]decane;
(±)-(2R3R,2S3S)-N-([2-cyclopropoxy-5-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]methyl)-2-
phenylpiperidin-3-amine;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

- 15 12. A use according to anyone of claims 1 to 4, or a composition
according to claim 5 or a method according to anyone of claims 6 to 9
wherein the severe anxiety disorder is selected from panic disorder with or
without agoraphobia, agoraphobia without history of panic disorder,
specific phobias, social phobias or obsessive-compulsive disorders.

- 20 13. A use according to anyone of claims 1 to 4, or a composition
according to claim 5 or a method according to anyone of claims 6 to 9
wherein the severe anxiety disorder is selected from anxiety disorders
induced by alcohol, amphetamines, caffeine, cannabis, cocaine,
25 hallucinogens, inhalants, phencyclidine, sedatives, hypnotics, anxiolytics
and other substances, and adjustment disorders with anxiety.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
T/EP 97/06683

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 A61K31/535 A61K31/445

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 6 A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 93 14084 A (GLAXO) 22 July 1993 see page 6, line 23 - page 7, line 3; claims 9-12 ---	1-8, 12, 13
Y	WO 96 05181 A (MERCK SHARP & DOHME) 22 February 1996 cited in the application see page 16, line 16 - line 25; claims; examples ---	1-13
Y	WO 95 08549 A (GLAXO) 30 March 1995 cited in the application see page 11, line 8 - line 13; claims; examples --- -/--	1-13

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *G* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

9 April 1998

Date of mailing of the international search report

30.04.98

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
EP 97/06683

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	EP 0 577 394 A (MERCK & CO.) 5 January 1994 cited in the application see page 19, line 34 - line 39; claims; examples ---	1-13
Y	WO 95 18124 A (MERCK SHARP & DOHME) 6 July 1995 cited in the application see page 3, line 12 - line 24; claims; examples -----	1-13

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP 97/06683

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 6-9
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Although claims 6-9 are drawn to a method of treatment of the human or animal body by therapy (Rule 39.1(iv) PCT) the search has been carried out based on the alleged effects of the compounds and compositions.
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

/EP 97/06683

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

/EP 97/06683

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